

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the accompanying substitute specification (including the abstract) for the original specification in this application. A marked-up copy of the original specification also accompanies this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1 1. (Amended) A collapsible shaft assembly
2 comprising:
3 an inner shaft having a fitting portion;
4 an outer hollow shaft having a fitting portion
5 fitted on said fitting portion of said inner shaft such
6 that said inner shaft and said outer shaft are
7 telescopically movable in an axial direction and
8 incapable of rotating relative to each other;
9 concave grooves formed in said fitting portion of
10 said inner shaft;
11 filling holes, formed in said fitting portion of
12 said outer shaft, through which said concave grooves are
13 filled with a resin, resinous slide portions thus being
14 formed on said fitting portions of said inner and outer
15 shafts; and

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16 a one-piece, substantially annular low frictional
17 member fixedly attached to an inner peripheral surface of
18 a front side end of said fitting portion of said outer
19 shaft.

1 2. (Amended) A collapsible shaft assembly according
2 to claim 1, wherein said low frictional member is
3 constructed of a ring made of a synthetic resin.

Please add the following claims:

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1 3. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly comprising:
2 an inner shaft having a fitting portion;
3 an outer shaft having a fitting portion in which said
4 fitting portion of said inner shaft is received, the
5 fitting portions being connected to each other non-
6 rotatably and for relative telescoping movement to collapse
7 the shaft assembly in response to an impact force;
8 said inner shaft having a reduced diameter portion
9 extending from said fitting portion thereof in a direction
10 of collapse of said outer shaft relative to said inner
11 shaft, said outer shaft having an end portion extending
12 beyond said fitting portion of said inner shaft so as to

13 receive said reduced diameter portion of said inner shaft;
14 and
15 a low frictional member attached to said end portion
16 of said outer shaft for movement therewith relative to said
17 inner shaft during collapse of the shaft assembly, and
18 through which said end portion of said outer shaft and said
19 reduced diameter portion of said inner shaft can slide
20 relative to each other during the collapse of the shaft
21 assembly.

1 4. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 3, wherein said low frictional member is axially
3 fixed to said end portion of said outer shaft.

1 5. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 4, wherein said low frictional member is a resin
3 member.

1 6. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 5, wherein said resin member is axially fixed to an
3 inner periphery of said end portion of said outer shaft.

1 7. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 6, wherein said resin member is substantially
3 annular.

1 8. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 4, wherein said low frictional member is axially
3 fixed to an inner periphery of said end portion of said
4 outer shaft.

1 9. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 3, wherein said fitting portions are connected to
3 each other by a resin connecting portion.

1 10. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 9, wherein said resin connecting portion is formed in
3 a groove in said fitting portion of said inner shaft and an
4 adjacent hole of said fitting portion of said outer shaft.

1 11. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 10, wherein said low frictional member is axially
3 fixed to said end portion of said outer shaft.

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1 12. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 11, wherein said low frictional member is a resin
3 member.

1 13. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 12, wherein said resin member is axially fixed to an
3 inner periphery of said end portion of said outer shaft.

1 14. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 13, wherein said resin member is substantially
3 annular.

1 15. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 9, wherein said low frictional member is axially
3 fixed to an inner periphery of said end portion of said
4 outer shaft.

1 16. (New) A collapsible shaft assembly according to
2 claim 15, wherein said low frictional member is a resin
3 member.